

AMENDMENTS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An information storage system comprising:
an information storage medium;
at least one read/write head comprising a transducer for information introduction and/or retrieval from the information storage medium; and an actuator supporting at least one read/write head for moving the transducer relative to the information storage medium;
wherein the information storage medium has a composite nickel coating thereon including an electrolessly deposited nickel layer formed on a sputter deposited nickel layer, and further wherein the composite nickel coating has a surface roughness (Ra) less than about 10 Å.

Claim 2 (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.

Claim 3 (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.

Claim 4 (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 10 Å to about 1000 Å.

Claim 5 (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 0.5 microns to about 10 microns.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An information storage medium for use in an information storage system, comprising:

a disk having a composite nickel coating including an electrolessly deposited nickel layer formed on a sputter deposited nickel layer thereon, wherein the composite nickel coating has an surface roughness (Ra) less than about 10 Å.

Claim 8 (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.

Claim 9 (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.

Claim 10 (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 10 Å to about 1000 Å.

Claim 11 (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 0.5 microns to about 10 microns.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (New) The information storage system of claim 1, wherein the surface roughness (Ra) is an average of a 10 micron x 10 micron scan of a surface of the composite nickel coating by an atomic field microscopy.

Claim 14 (New) The information storage medium of claim 7, wherein the surface roughness (Ra) is an average of a 10 micron x 10 micron scan of a surface of the composite nickel coating by an atomic field microscopy.